



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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18 FEBRUARY 1965

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1. Congo

Ugandan Army units have crossed the Congolese frontier at three places. It is not clear how large these forces are, but at least one of the columns may be company sized and equipped with armored cars. These incursions are the culmination of Uganda Prime Minister Obote's active assistance of the Congo rebels which he began in mid-December. To cover the action, Obote is accusing the Congolese of incursions into Uganda.

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Meanwhile, there is fresh evidence of other African support for the Congolese rebels. [redacted] several large boats crossing Lake Tanganyika [redacted] from Tanzania to rebel-held territory around Fizi. [redacted] Tanzania has given assent to the air transit of arms for the Congo rebels [redacted]. Kenya is said to have decided to send troops to Uganda, and some may have been flown in yesterday.

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Two Congolese T-28 aircraft are missing in the area of one of the Ugandan attacks, and are believed to have been shot down.

While the extent of direct involvement by Ugandan or other foreign elements is not yet clear, it is obvious that a more effective and disciplined rebel force has appeared on the scene in the past few days.

2. Indonesia

A mob of Communist youths seized the USIS library in Medan, Sumatra, this morning. There are indications that takeovers of American-owned rubber plantations in north Sumatra are likely soon. As before, this harassing activity is instigated by, or at least connived in, the Sukarno government.

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3. Vietnam

Viet Cong activity--mainly small-scale guerrilla attacks and sabotage--has been relatively light today. The government has bombed and sunk what may prove to be a North Vietnamese vessel of some size. General Khanh is personally conducting an investigation of the hulk to determine whether it may have been used in infiltration operations.

In Saigon, political maneuvering continues. There is speculation that there may be a shake-up in the Buddhist leadership which will displace Buddhist Institute leader Tam Chau, who figured prominently in the agitation against the Huong government. Such a shake-up would further strengthen the position of Chau's rival, Tri Quang.

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4. Sudan

The new government which is now being formed will probably be dominated by non-Communist elements. However, the Communists will probably have some representation in the coalition and the likely resumption of bickering and infighting among the other parties could provide the Communists with the opportunities for influence. It is too soon to tell whether the change of government will render the Sudanese more cooperative with Western efforts to stabilize the Congo situation.

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